

Claims

What is claimed is:

5 ~~1. A method of delivering information, the method comprising the step of:
delivering at least a portion of the information to a receiver in an at least partially-
encrypted format using multiple bitstreams of a digital communication system, such that access to
the information is provided at a first quality level.~~

10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein access to the information is provided at the first quality
level without decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format.

15 3. The method of claim 1 further including the step of providing a key for decrypting the
information in the at least partially-encrypted format, such that when the information is decrypted,
access to the information is provided at a second quality level higher than the first quality level.

20 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the key for decrypting the information in the at least
partially-encrypted format is supplied over a network connection established with a server.

25 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the multiple bitstreams correspond to subbands of at least
first and second digital sidebands of a host carrier signal in an in-band on-channel (IBOC) digital
audio broadcasting system.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the host carrier signal is an analog FM host signal.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the information delivered to the receiver comprises audio
information.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the audio information comprises a particular music
selection.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the first quality level of the audio information corresponds to an FM-quality level, and a second quality level of the audio information corresponds to a CD-quality level.

5 10. The method of claim 1 wherein at least a subset of the multiple bitstreams are unencrypted, and the information at the first quality level is generated using only the unencrypted bitstreams.

10 11. The method of claim 1 further including the step of storing the information in the at least partially-encrypted format in a storage device accessible to the receiver.

See
12. The method of claim 11 wherein the storage device comprises at least one of a disk, a memory card and a cartridge

15 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the storage device is associated with an information processing device which establishes a network connection with a server.

20 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the storage device is adaptable for insertion into (i) a corresponding receptacle of the receiver, and (ii) a corresponding receptacle of an information processing device which establishes a network connection with a server for obtaining a decryption key for decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format.

See
25 15. An apparatus for delivering information, comprising:
a transmitter operative to transmit at least a portion of the information to a receiver in an at least partially-encrypted format using multiple bitstreams of a digital communication system, such that access to the information is provided at a first quality level.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein access to the information is provided at the first quality level without decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format.

17. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein a key is provided for decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format, such that when the information is decrypted, access to the information is provided at a second quality level higher than the first quality level.

5 18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the key for decrypting the at least partially-encrypted format is supplied over a network connection established with a server.

10 19. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the multiple bitstreams correspond to subbands of at least first and second digital sidebands of a host carrier signal in an in-band on-channel (IBOC) digital audio broadcasting system.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the host carrier signal is an analog FM host signal.

15 21. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the information delivered to the receiver comprises audio information.

20 22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the audio information comprises a particular music selection.

25 23. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the first quality level of the audio information corresponds to an FM-quality level, and a second quality level of the audio information corresponds to a CD-quality level.

25 24. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein at least a subset of the multiple bitstreams are unencrypted, and the information at the first quality level is generated using only the unencrypted bitstreams.

25 25. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the information in the at least partially-encrypted format is stored in a storage device accessible to the receiver.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the storage device comprises at least one of a disk,
a memory card and a cartridge

27. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the storage device is associated with an information
processing device which establishes a network connection with a server.

28. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the storage device is adaptable for insertion into (i)
a corresponding receptacle of the receiver, and (ii) a corresponding receptacle of an information
processing device which establishes a network connection with a server for obtaining a decryption
key for decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format.

29. A method of receiving information, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving at least a portion of the information from a transmitter in an at least
partially-encrypted format using multiple bitstreams of a digital communication system, such that
access to the information is provided at a first quality level.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein access to the information is provided at the first quality
level without decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format, the method
further including the step of providing a key for decrypting the information in the at least partially-
encrypted format, such that when the information is decrypted, access to the information is provided
at a second quality level higher than the first quality level.

31. An apparatus for receiving information, comprising:
a receiver operative to receive at least a portion of the information from a transmitter
in an at least partially-encrypted format using multiple bitstreams of a digital communication system,
such that access to the information is provided at a first quality level.

32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein access to the information is provided at the first
quality level without decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format, and further

wherein a key is provided for decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format, such that when the information is decrypted, access to the information is provided at a second quality level higher than the first quality level.

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33. A method of delivering information, the method comprising the step of:
delivering at least a portion of the information to a receiver, using at least first and second bitstreams of a digital communication system, wherein the first bitstream is encrypted and the second bitstream is unencrypted, such that access to the information is provided at a first quality level.

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34. An apparatus for delivering information, comprising:
a transmitter operative to transmit at least a portion of the information to a receiver, using at least first and second bitstreams of a digital communication system, wherein the first bitstream is encrypted and the second bitstream is unencrypted, such that access to the information is provided at a first quality level.

35. A method of delivering information, the method comprising the steps of:

delivering at least a portion of the information to a receiver in an at least partially-encrypted format using multiple bitstreams of a digital communication system, such that access to the information is provided at a first quality level without decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format; and

providing via an electronic commerce system a key for decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format, such that when the information is decrypted, access to the information is provided at a second quality level higher than the first quality level.

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36. The method of claim 35 wherein the electronic commerce system comprises a web site from which the key is downloaded to an information processing device.

37. An apparatus for delivering information, comprising:

a transmitter operative to transmit at least a portion of the information to a receiver in an at least partially-encrypted format using multiple bitstreams of a digital communication system, such that access to the information is provided at a first quality level without decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format, and wherein a key for decrypting the information in the at least partially-encrypted format is provided via an electronic commerce system, such that when the information is decrypted, access to the information is provided at a second quality level higher than the first quality level.

38. The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the electronic commerce system comprises a web site from which the key is downloaded to an information processing device.